

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 9 and 16 have been amended. Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended during a phone conversation on January 23, 2006 in which Applicants discussed the "Response to Arguments" section of the most recent Office Action. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Neal (U.S. Pat. No. 2,906,006). This rejection is respectfully traversed. In the most recent Office Action, the Examiner has noted that "In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., the first and second flow paths do not connect) are not recited in the rejected claim(s)".

In response to the Examiner's comment, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 9 to recite, wherein the first and second flow paths do not connect. Similarly, claim 16 has been amended to recite, wherein the first, second and third flow paths do not connect. Applicants note that Neal does not teach or disclose a method for making a current collector plate wherein the first and second flow paths do not connect. As shown in FIGS. 5 and 6 of Neal, stock 32 is inflated thereby producing a hollow article (FIG. 6) in which tubes 47 have been developed from bands 44 and tubes 48 have been

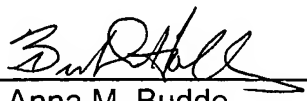
developed from bands 45 of FIG. 5. Tubes 47 and 48 are connected and as a result, the flowpaths of fluid communicated through the tubes 47 and 48 are connected. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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